

By: Miles

S.B. No. 354

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to access to postsecondary courses or programs for inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 495, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 495.029 to read as follows:

Sec. 495.029. PROVISION OF POSTSECONDARY COURSES OR PROGRAMS TO INMATES. (a) In this section, "institution of higher education" and "private or independent institution of higher education" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

(b) The board may contract with an institution of higher education or a private or independent institution of higher education to provide postsecondary courses or postsecondary degree or certificate programs to inmates confined in a facility operated by or under contract with the department. The contract must ensure that inmates are able to earn academic credit for a course or program offered by an institution under the contract and that the credit is transferable to other public or private institutions of higher education in this state.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.